(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been stated *inter-alia* that in some parts of Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, Judiciary has not yet been separated from the executive. It is for the concerned State Governments to take appropriate action for separating judiciary from the executive.

Foreign Consultancy Firms operating in India

1026 SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI CO. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign consultancy firms operating in India during 1997-98;

(b) the total amount of earnings they made during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the foreign consultancy firms off load part of their job to the Indian consultancy firms; and

(d) the impact of this development on Indian Consultancy agencies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Judicial Commission to draw code of ethics for judiciary

1027. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that setting up of a national judicial commission to make recommendations for judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and High Courts and to draw up a code of ethics for judiciary is on the national agenda for governance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal;

(c) how the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether Government have received proposals for opening additional branches of Supreme Court and High Courts at various places; and

(e) the details of action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon and the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance is to set up a National Judicial Commission to recommendations for Judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary. The proposal would require Parliamentary legislation. It is, however, not possible to indicate the time by which a decision in this regard would be taken.

(d) and (e) According to article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place of places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard.

No specific, complete proposal has been received from any State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, for establishing a permanent bench of the High Court away from its principal seat.

National Commission for review of the Constitution

1028. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering total review of the Constitution which is reportedly outdated to deal with the merging complex political scenario and containing challenges posed;

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken in this regard;

(c) the details of the timebound action plan conceived / proposed by Government for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government are considering to set up a National Commission for review of the Constitution and suggest appropriate changes, if so, the details of the moves proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) Government has not taken any decision in the matter so far.

Appointment of more Women Judges

1029. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of judges in various High Courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) out of them how many are women judges in each High Court;

(c) whether Government propose to appoint more women judges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) A Statment is laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below).

(c) to (e) Appointment of Judges of High Courts are made in terms of Article 217 of the Constitution which does not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Statement

(As on 1.12.1998)

S.	. Name of High Court ′	No of Judges	No of wome Judges
1.	Allahabad	44	_____
2.	Andhra pradesh	25	1
3.	Bombay	47	3
4.	Calcutta	31	1
5.	Delhi	25	1
6.	Gauhati	15	1
7.	Gujarat	30	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	_____
10.	Karnataka	33	_____
11.	Kerala	22	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26	1
13.	Madras	33	2
14.	Orissa	12	—
15.	Patna	29	1
16.	Punjab & Haryana	22	—
17.	Rajasthan	22	1
18.	Sikkim	1	—
		433	16

Barring of Criminals from Contesting Elections 1030. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for barring the criminals from contesting in Parliamentary and Assembly elections is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented; and

(c) whether the proposed measure is: likely to include the undertrials and those persons released on bail but not actually